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Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR
No. 2 SANITARY AREA
DEVON

1951

Medical Officer of Health—Duncombe Steele-Perkins

	Sanitary Inspector	Surveyor
Axminster Urban ...	L. H. White	F. J. Smith
Axminster Rural ...	L. H. White	F. J. Smith
Honiton Borough ...	R. B. Bailey	R. B. Bailey
Honiton Rural ...	F. J. Baxfield	F. J. Baxfield
Seaton Urban ...	P. Bradley	P. Bradley

Annual Report

for No. 2 Sanitary Area for 1951,

comprising :—

AXMINSTER URBAN, AXMINSTER RURAL, HONITON BOROUGH,
HONITON RURAL, AND SEATON URBAN.

DUNCOMBE STEELE-PERKINS, *Med. Officer of Health.*

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1951, and which deals with the general Health and Sanitary matters affecting the No. 2 Sanitary Area.

With the exception of a very serious outbreak of Measles in the early part of the Year, the Area has had an exceptionally good year from freedom from other Infectious Disease, but the Measles outbreak was the worst I have ever known, and simply paralysed the work of the Schools for some considerable period during the quarters ending March, June and September.

During this period the numbers notified were:—

Honiton Rural	...	106 boys and 82 girls
Axminster Rural	...	284 boys and 177 girls
Honiton Borough	...	107 boys and 92 girls
Axminster Urban	...	110 boys and 117 girls
Seaton Urban	...	58 boys and 47 girls

The epidemic started in the Honiton Borough and Honiton Rural Areas and then swept through the whole District. Although not of a severe type, it was sufficient to incapacitate a large proportion of the child population, and play havoc with the School attendance.

I am very glad to report that no deaths occurred from measles during the epidemic, and we were fortunate in the fact that the large majority of the cases occurred after March, when the warmer weather had come, and this I consider contributed mainly to the lack of casualties amongst the children, as Measles to my mind is one of the most dangerous infectious diseases we have. If an epidemic occurs in the winter months, when Pneumonia frequently supervenes with fatal results, if there has been any neglect in the home nursing.

The other outstanding events which call for comment were :—

1. The coming into being of the East Devon Water Board, with the appointment of a resident Engineer—A. A. Smith, Esq., B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., with Headquarters and offices at Honiton. As I expressed in my Annual Report last year, we must not expect to see miracles performed now we have a Water Board. Mr. Smith has an enormous amount of work to do in co-ordinating the various sources and supplies of water throughout the District, and as one new to the District, it will take considerable time to visit and inspect and then plan the future development of the supplies of water to the Area. As I have no doubt he will be reporting direct to the various authorities, I do not propose in this report to elaborate any more on the Water Schemes for the Area, except for the reports in paragraphs 2 and 3 below, but to await his reports when he has carried out his inspections. I can only add that any help I can give him, I am always at his service.
2. The commencing of the Water supply from the Lyme Regis Water Co. to supply Musbury, Kilminster and Shute. This, at the time of going to press, is well on the way to completion, and which should have been completed months ago, but the work has been terribly slow and disappointing to those who have waited so patiently and so long for this scheme to come to fruition.
3. Taunton Water Supply. At long last we now have a definite agreement with the Taunton Authorities as to the future of extraction of water from the Otter, and I think it advisable to put on record in my Annual Report a summary of the agreement reached at a conference held at Exeter on October 31st, 1951.

“It was realised by all at the Meeting that Taunton’s water situation was really desperate, and the fact was stated that they were opening their 1,000th Council House that day, and until they could arrange for an alternative supply, it was absolutely essential that they should extract the water from the Otter.

However, after a long discussion, Taunton agreed that no water should be taken from the Otter unless the gauge at Knacker’s Hole showed that a million gallons of water a day were passing through the gauge. Under the old

order Taunton were at liberty to extract water if only 750,000 gallons per day were passing through the gauge. This will be of considerable benefit to the reaches of the Otter below Knacker's Hole.

In addition, Taunton gave a solemn undertaking to at once take steps to bring into being their new supply from Clatworthy, they having now abandoned the previous scheme at Quants, and they estimated that in approximately four years they would have all the water they want, and on completion of the scheme finally abandon the Otter Head supply altogether, and so once more restore the full volume of water to the Otter from the Springs at Otter Head.

I think the conference was really worth while, as we now have a very definite undertaking by Taunton to abandon the Otter on completion of the Clatworthy supply, and which should take place in the course of a few years time."

The year has again been marked with an entire absence of Diphtheria, and with the continuance of Immunisation, this disease should now be entirely eliminated from our Area, in fact throughout the whole country the disease has been practically eradicated.

On the other hand, I rather expected to have a large increase in Poliomyelitis, but fortunately my forecast was wrong, and I have only to report two very slight cases of Paralytic Polio in the Honiton Rural Area, and which both made a perfect recovery, as against 11 cases in 1950.

Puerpural Fever has also practically disappeared, there was only one very mild case in the Honiton Borough, which completely recovered.

Housing has again made steady progress, and I feel the peak has now been passed, and a reduction in Council building will take place in the near future, and more building left to Private Enterprise.

I would like to extend my very warm thanks to my Sanitary Staff for their very kind and great help to me during the past year. Our relations are so cordial, that it is a great pleasure to work with them.



AXMINSTER URBAN.

Area	...	...	667 acres
Population	...	...	2,674
Rateable Value	...	...	£21,847
Penny Rate produces	...	...	£91 17s. 8d.

Infectious Disease.

			1950	1951
Measles	...	...	9	239
Diphtheria	...	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	14	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	0	0
Para Typhoid	...	...	0	0
Erysipelas	...	...	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	18	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	0	0
Poliomyelitis	...	...	5	0
Opt. Neon.	...	...	0	0
			<hr/> 46	<hr/> 247

Deaths.

Number of Deaths registered from all causes:—

1950—(15 Males, 14 Females)	...	29
1951—(14 Males, 28 Females)	...	42

Live Births.

Number of Births registered:—

1950—(17 Males, 27 Females) and includes 1 illegitimate birth	...	44
1951—(20 Males, 15 Females) and includes 2 illegitimate births	...	35

Still Births.

Number of above registered:—

1950—(1 Female registered)	...	1
1951—(0 were registered)	...	0

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

1950—0 Deaths were registered.

1951—2 Deaths were registered.

This is the first time for 3 years that the death of a child under 1 year has been registered.

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.

1951—2 deaths were registered (1 Male, 1 Female).

Deaths.—The number of Deaths registered were 42, as against 29 in 1950, and the causes of death were as follows:—

		1950	1951
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	1	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	5	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	3	7
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	7	5
Other Heart Disease	...	4	6
Other Circulatory Disease	...	2	1
Influenza	...	1	1
Nephritis	...	1	0
Other Defined and ill-Defined Diseases	...	2	3
Bronchitis	...	1	4
Diabetes	...	0	1
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	0	3
Pneumonia	...	0	1
Congenital Malformation	...	0	1
Accidental Deaths	...	0	2
		<hr/> 29	<hr/> 42

Births.—The Births show a decrease, 35 births as against 44 in 1950, and I have to record 2 illegitimate births.

Infectious Disease.

The total number of Infectious Diseases reported to me during 1951 were 244 cases, including—Measles 239, Scarlet Fever 0, Whooping Cough 1, Pneumonia 7, Poliomyelitis 0.

The Urban Area was one of my districts very badly hit by the outbreak of Measles—in all 239 cases being reported to me. This, in a population of under three thousand, was a very high average. Fortunately the epidemic was not severe in type, and no deaths were reported, but at the same time it simply played havoc with School attendance. The height of the epidemic occurred in the quarter ending June 30th, when 207 cases occurred out of the total notified of 239 for the year; otherwise the Urban Area had a remarkable degree of immunity from Infectious Disease, and as you will see from my chart, the only other cases notified were 7 of Pneumonia and 1 of Whooping Cough.

Poliomyelitis, which I was rather dreading, thankfully made no return, and no cases were reported as against five in the previous year.

My Sanitary Inspector, Mr. White, reports as follows :—

Meat and Food Supplies.

The following have been condemned during the year :—322 lbs. of Tinned Food and 111 lbs. of Imported Meat.

Inspections have been made of 12 Shops, and other places where food is prepared. In all cases the premises were found to be satisfactory.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No outbreaks of food poisoning have occurred in the District for the year ending 1951.

AXMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT.

Area	...	...	51,468 acres
Population	...	...	11,610
Rateable Value	...	...	£59,384
Penny Rate produces	...	...	£242 10s.
No. of Parishes	...	...	14

Infectious Disease.

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified in 1951 :—

			1950	1951
Measles	...	...	24	462
Pneumonia	...	...	20	8
Diphtheria	...	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	35	4
Scarlet Fever	...	...	12	7
Erysipelas	...	...	5	2
Typhoid	...	...	0	0
Puerpural Pyrexia	...	...	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	4	0
Dysentery	...	...	1	0
			<hr/> 101	<hr/> 483

Deaths.

1950—(77 Males, 90 Females)	...	...	167
1951—(77 Males, 79 Females)	...	...	156

Live Births.

1950—(89 Males, 80 Females)	...	...	169
7 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 169.			
1951—(82 Males, 71 Females)	...	...	153
6 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 153.			

Still Births.

1950—3 Still Births were registered.
 1951—2 Still Births were registered.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

1950—5 Deaths were registered (2 illegitimate).
 1951—5 Deaths were registered (1 illegitimate).

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1951—4 Deaths were registered, including 1 illegitimate

Infectious Disease.

With the exception of the severe outbreak of Measles in the early months of the year, when 462 cases were reported in the Rural District, the District has been remarkably free of any Infectious Disease, but the Measles epidemic, although of a fairly mild type, was one of the worst in my records. Fortunately no deaths occurred, and it is of interest to note how the different ages were attacked.

Ages 1 year to 2 years	...	69 cases
„ 3 years to 4 years	...	90 „
„ 5 years to 9 years	...	252 „
„ 10 years to 14 years	...	33 „
„ 15 years to 24 years	...	11 „
„ 25 years and over	...	7 „

Total ... 462 cases

These figures are the general average of ages attacked in proportion throughout the No. 2 Area.

It is also interesting to note that no cases of Poliomyelitis or Diphtheria were notified me during the year.

Deaths.—These shew a big decrease for the District, 156 compared with 167 in 1950.

The chief causes of death in the Area were :—			1950	1951
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	3	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Disease	...	...	1	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	5	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	4	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	3	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Bronchus	...	...	0	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	19	17
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	...	...	28	25
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	18	21
Hypertension with Heart Disease...	...	...	2	5
Other Heart Disease	...	...	34	28
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	2	6
Influenza	...	...	1	2
Pneumonia	...	...	1	4
Bronchitis	...	...	3	7
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	1	9
Duodenal Ulcer	...	...	3	3
Gastritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	2	2
Nephritis	...	...	6	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	5	2
Childbirth Abortion	...	...	1	0
Congenital Malformation	...	...	1	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	19	9
Accidents	...	...	3	4
Suicide	...	...	2	0
Leukaemia	...	...	0	1
			—	—
			167	156

Births.—These remain a little below the average, 153 as against 169 in 1950, and include 6 illegitimate births.

Water Supplies.

These, on the whole, have been satisfactory, and work on them, with the exception of the supply from the Lyme Regis Water Co., has been one of purely maintenance. In the case of the Lyme Regis Water Co., they are extending their supply to include Musbury, Kilminster and Shute.

As the East Devon Water Board has now taken over the water supplies of the Area, I presume, that in future, I shall only be holding a sort of watching brief, and the main report on the supplies, &c., will be furnished by Mr. Smith, Resident Engineer to the East Devon Water Board.

I have much pleasure in presenting the Report of Mr. L. H. White, Sanitary Inspector, and I would here like to express to him my very grateful thanks for the splendid and efficient help he has given me during the past year. The Axminster Rural Area is a very large Area to run efficiently, and it is mainly due to him that everything has gone so smoothly.

The last year has been fairly uneventful, with the exception of normal routine work. Unfortunately the Water Scheme from Rousdon has not yet produced us any water, otherwise we would have carried out both water and sanitary improvements to our Council Houses at Musbury and Whitford.

Our progress in the building of New Houses, as you know, has gone ahead with great satisfaction for the size of the district, but unfortunately from a Public Health point of view we have only put in a water scheme at Hawkchurch, and this current supply through Musbury, Whitford and Kilminster, and of course numerous small extensions and improvements by Mr. Smith. Otherwise the water and sewerage over the six post-war years have made little progress. The failure to institute any sewerage scheme is not helping the general sanitary conditions of the District, where we have proceeded with Housing to a great extent and increased our water activities. It is obvious that there is a great need to progress with some of our sewerage schemes, which would automatically improve sanitary conditions. Nothing in this direction has occurred since pre-war, and I hope that we have not "missed the boat" with the economic situation becoming difficult. There is an urgent need in this district for water, and especially sewerage, and if we continue to build at our present rate there will be plenty of nuisances, also we are spending money on small disposal plants for Council Houses, which is causing nearly as much to maintain as a large works. This money would be better directed into larger schemes.

Meat and Other Foods.

Killing and Inspection is still being carried on at the Regional Abattoir at Tiverton. During the year 219 lbs. of Tinned Food have been condemned.

Inspections were carried out to 14 Shops, and to premises licensed under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, and also the Knackers Yard at Chardstock, where conditions are improving. No premises were found to be unsatisfactory.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

There were no outbreaks of Food Poisoning in the district for this period.

Water Supply.

The 5 Private Water Supplies operating in the district have been satisfactory, and there has been no shortage of water or complaints received.

Refuse Collection.

Refuse collection by the Council was carried out in 7 Parishes only. As from the 31st March, 1952, this has now been extended to the whole of the district, covering the 14 Parishes, giving Beer and Colyton a weekly collection, the Villages a fortnightly collection, and the outlying areas a monthly collection.

HONITON BOROUGH.

Area	...	...	3,134 acres
Population	...	...	4,354
Rateable Value	...	...	£31,893
Penny Rate produces	...	...	£127 15s. 0d.

Deaths.

Number of Deaths registered from all causes :—

1950—(23 Males, 12 Females)	...	...	35
1951—(20 Males, 23 Females)	...	...	43

Live Births.

Number of Live Births registered :—

1950—(27 Males, 20 Females)	...	...	47
0 illegitimate births were registered.			
1951—(32 Males, 28 Females)	...	...	60
0 illegitimate births were registered.			

Still Births.

1950—2 Still Births were registered.
 1951—2 Still Births were registered.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

1950—0 Deaths were registered.
 1951—1 Death was registered.

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.

1951—1 death was registered.

Infectious Disease.

The following cases were notified in 1951 :—

		1950	1951
Scarlet Fever	...	1	0
Diphtheria	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	13	6
Measles	...	5	201
Erysipelas	...	2	0
Pneumonia	...	5	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	0	1
Poliomyelitis	...	1	0
		<hr/> 27	<hr/> 218

With the exception of the outbreak of measles in the early part of the year, the health of the Borough has been exceptionally good. Measles, as you will gather from this Report, were exceptionally prevalent during the early part of the year, but I am glad to report no deaths occurred from this disease.

Poliomyelitis and Diphtheria were completely absent, but in the case of Polio. I had rather anticipated an outbreak. Diphtheria now seems to be a thing of the past, and no cases have occurred for several years, solely due to the immunisation of the children.

Bathing Facilities.

There is a great demand for these facilities in the Borough, and I should like very much to see a big effort made to provide suitable baths for the adults. The present limited resources of the Allhallows School Baths are much too small to permit of unlimited bathing. In the first place, chlorination is of a very primitive type, and no guarantee can be given that the water has at any time been properly chlorinated, as the chlorination is not continuous and the bulk dosage soon loses its effect. The only answer is to limit the Baths to the school children in order to teach the young to swim, and during the holiday time allow the Swimming Club to use the Baths, strictly excluding all children.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered were 43 as compared with 35 in 1950.

Birth Rate.—60 births were recorded in 1951, as against 47 in 1950, which is a great improvement.

The chief causes of death were:—		1950	1951
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	2	0
• Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	1	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	1	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung	...	1	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	1	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	6	1
Leukaemia	...	1	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	2	8
Heart Disease	...	8	9
Other Circulatory Disease	...	1	5
Pneumonia	...	1	1
Bronchitis	...	2	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	1	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	2	0
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	4	5
Motor Accident	...	1	3
Coronary Disease	...	0	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	0	2
Influenza	...	0	2
Ulcer of Stomach	...	0	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth Abortion	...	0	1
		35	43

Owing to the unfortunate illness of Mr. Bailey, Borough Surveyor, I regret I have been unable to produce his report in detail, but I am indebted to Mr. G. H. Wheeler, C.R.S.I., acting Sanitary Inspector, for the following report for inclusion with mine.

Water Supplies.

The three sources of water supply to the Borough, consisting of Copper Castle Supply, St. Cyres Supply and Wilmington Supply, will shortly be taken over by the East Devon Water Board.

No major extensions or new work have been carried out during the year. Water samples have been taken at regular intervals and have proved to be satisfactory. Regular night tests have taken place with a view to tracing leakages and waste, and I am satisfied that there is no abnormal wastage in the area of supply. Day to day maintenance work is carried out generally.

With the exception of some outlying farms, practically the whole of the Borough is now supplied with piped water.

Sewerage.

The Sewerage Works are being maintained satisfactorily, and the effluent is proving good. The plant is working to full capacity, and urgent consideration must be given to further extension of the Works to cope with the additional Council Houses at Clapper Lane and Langford Road, the new Private Enterprise Sites at Millhead Estate, and the proposed Married Quarters for Heathfield Camp, together with the trunk sewers necessary to service this Estate.

Housing.

Eighty-eight Housing Inspections have been made under the Housing Acts, and appropriate action has been taken for repairs or re-housing. The Council's housing programme is proceeding well, 24 new houses at Charles Road Estate having been completed, and a further 18 nearing completion at Langford Road Estate, with tenders being invited for a further 29 houses at this Estate in the near future. The total of new houses erected during the post war period is 104, plus 12 pre-fabricated bungalows.

Refuse Collection.

Regular weekly refuse collections, including the collection of trade waste, are carried out in the Borough. The salvage of materials is still being continued, and the reclaiming of waste has been material in keeping down the cost of refuse collection.

A new controlled tip on modern lines has been commenced at the sewerage works, and the old dump has been sealed and closed.

Rodent Control.

The Council employs a full-time rodent operative, whose services until recently were shared with the Honiton Rural District Council, who have now engaged their own operative. Treatments to all Council property have been carried out during the year, as well as surveys and block policy treatments generally. These have proved very successful, and infestations have been kept well under control.

Meat and Food, and Clean Food Regulations.

Routine Inspections of food premises are carried out, and although a considerable number of tinned foreign ham were condemned early in the year, the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption is not generally excessive.

All premises where ice cream is sold or manufactured have been inspected, and the premises were of the required standard.

Following the adoption by the Council of the Clean Food Byelaws, inspections have been made, and traders have been most co-operative in carrying out the requirements of these Byelaws.

Food Poisoning.

There have been no outbreaks of food poisoning in the Borough.

General.

Very few nuisances have arisen during the year, all of which were dealt with informally, with one exception of a drainage nuisance where a statutory notice was served, as a result of which the necessary work is being put in hand.

HONITON RURAL DISTRICT.

Area	...	...	61,265 acres
Population	...	...	7,038
No. of Parishes	...	...	22
Rateable Value	...	...	£28,125
Penny Rate Produces	...	...	£115

Infectious Disease.

The Rural District did not escape the Measles epidemic which swept through the No. 2 Area. In all, 190 cases were reported, but like the rest of the Area no deaths were reported, and on the whole it was not a severe type.

Two cases of the Paralytic type of Poliomyelitis were notified to me. One case occurred at Buckerell in a girl aged 16 years, and the other at Awliscombe in a boy aged 17 years. Both cases were removed to Hospital, and I am glad to say both made a complete and full recovery. If these cases can be caught in the very early stages, a tremendous lot can be done for them before the Paralysis becomes severe. I made a full investigation into these cases, and there was no connection whatsoever between them, being purely isolated cases, and quite impossible to trace any source of Infection.

With the exception of the Measles, the Area has had quite a good year, and fairly free from Infectious Disease.

		1950	1951
Scarlet Fever ...	...	0	0
Diphtheria ...	...	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	...	26	22
Measles ...	...	2	190
Pneumonia ...	...	8	7
Erysipelas ...	...	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	1	2
		<hr/> 37	<hr/> 221

Deaths.

Number of deaths registered from all causes:—

1950—(48 Males, 33 Females)	...	...	81
1951—(52 Males, 51 Females)	...	...	103

Live Births.

Number of Live Births registered:—

1950—(71 Males, 52 Females)	...	...	123
The number of illegitimate births registered was 5, and are included in the above total of 123.			
1951—(60 Males, 54 Females)	...	...	114

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

1950—1 death was registered (1 Male).

1951—1 death was registered (1 Female).

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.

1951—0 deaths were registered.

Still Births.

1950—Number of Still Births registered was 3 (0 illegitimate).

1951—Number of Still Births registered was 5 (1 illegitimate).

Births.—These again show a decrease, 114 as compared with 123 in 1950.

The birth rate is very much on the decline in the Honiton Rural District.

Deaths.—The number of Deaths registered were 103, as compared with 81 in 1950. The chief causes of death were:—

	1950	1951
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	0	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung ...	2	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	2	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	3	10
Leukaemia ...	1	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	12	21
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	8	8
Hypertension with Heart Disease... ..	2	4
Other Heart Disease ...	21	16
Other Circulatory Disease ...	2	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	0	1
Pneumonia ...	4	7
Bronchitis ...	3	5
Influenza ...	0	3
Duodenal Ulcer ...	1	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	1	0
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	11	9
Motor Accidents ...	2	1
Suicide ...	3	0
All Other Accidents ...	2	4
Nephritis ...	0	2
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	0	1
	<hr/> 81	<hr/> 103

I have pleasure in adding the Sanitary Inspector's Report for 1951 :—

Water Supplies.

During the year the Gittisham Water Supply Scheme was completed, the mains tested, and the scheme ready for operation. Work was also commenced on the necessary service connections. The scheme was completed very economically and will fulfill a long felt need for water in the Parish.

Various capital schemes submitted in 1950 were delayed for a number of reasons. In the case of the Sheldon extension, the delay was caused until the newly formed East Devon Water Board had had an opportunity to consider the scheme. The same remarks apply to Broadhembury.

The East Devon Water Board, which came into operation on the 1st April, 1951, has assumed responsibility for all supplies in the Rural District, although maintenance is carried out as before by the Rural Council under delegated powers.

Sewerage.

Schemes for Plymtree, Weston and Awliscombe were prepared in outline form, and approved in principle by the County Council. Action on these schemes is deferred, pending the results of anticipated Public Inquiries into the Wilmington and Monkton Sewerage Schemes.

The outline scheme for Monkton, mentioned in the 1950 Report, was completed and submitted to the Ministry for approval, and is awaiting a Public Inquiry.

No Public Inquiry has yet been held at Wilmington, although the sites have been cleared by the local authorities concerned for some time.

Refuse Collection.

The Council's scheme for Refuse Collection is working satisfactorily. The Payhembury Tip has been extended and brought into operation again. There are at present 3 Tips now in use. Controlled tipping is practised on each, and the general condition is very satisfactory.

Rodent Control.

The Rodent Operator is shared with the Borough Council, and this is working reasonably well. Treatment has been carried out at all the Council's Refuse Tips and Sewers. No heavy infestation was noted. A survey has been completed in several Parishes, and the number of individual properties from which complaints of rodents have been received have been treated.

Housing.

Various unfit Houses found during routine inspections have been dealt with, and the necessary repairs effected.

SEATON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Area	...	...	1,190 acres
Population	...	...	2,871
Rateable value	...	...	£33,259
Penny Rate produces	...	...	£131 10s. 0d.

Deaths.

Number of Deaths registered from all causes :—

1950—(26 Males, 32 Females)	...	...	58
1951—(35 Males, 33 Females)	...	...	68

Live Births.

Number of Live Births registered :—

1950—(13 Males, 15 Females)	...	...	28
0 illegitimate births were registered.			
1951—(16 Males, 13 Females)	...	...	29
2 illegitimate births are included in the 29 registered.			

Still Births.

1950—2 were registered.
 1951—0 were registered.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

1950—0 were registered.
 1951—0 were registered.

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.

1951—0 were registered.

Infectious Disease.

The following cases were notified during the year :—

		1950	1951
Scarlet Fever	...	1	3
Puerpural Pyrexia	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	17	0
Measles ...	...	0	105
Pneumonia	...	4	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	0	0
Diphtheria ...	...	0	0
		<hr/> 22	<hr/> 110

With the exception of Measles, prevalent everywhere, Seaton has again maintained its record of immunity from Infectious Disease, and, as I have said on so many occasions, it is a splendid record for any seaside resort, which caters for an enormous holiday population. I note again with pleasure the entire absence of Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis.

I note with great pleasure the efforts now being made to meet the Housing situation, and which I hope will soon bear fruit. Houses are very badly wanted in Seaton, and we have a long lee-way to make up.

Deaths. The number of deaths registered from all causes were 68 as compared with 58 in 1950. The causes of death were :

	1950	1951
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1	2
Other Tubercular Disease ...	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Bronchus ...	1	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	7	7
Leukaemia ...	1	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	6	9
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	7	13
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	1	2
Other Heart Disease ...	16	20
Other Circulatory Disease ...	1	0
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	0	1
Ulcer of Stomach ...	0	1
Pneumonia ...	2	0
Bronchitis ...	2	0
Gastritis ...	1	1
Nephritis ...	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	1	2
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	4	5
Accidents ...	3	0
Suicide ...	1	0
	<hr/> 58	<hr/> 68

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector's Report.

I have pleasure in submitting the Report of my Sanitary Inspector :—

Sewage Disposal.

A good deal of time has been given to the revised scheme, but I am glad to say that the plans and documents are now ready, and tenders have been invited. It is hoped that during the year 1952 the new works will be built so that more new houses can be erected for the Council.

As your Sanitary Inspector, the following inspections were made during the year :

Routine Inspections (Public Health & Housing Acts)	156
Inspection of Dairies ...	6
Disinfection following Infectious Disease ...	2
Housing Inspections ...	6
Visits with regard to Water Supply ...	12
Water Samples ...	2
Inspection of New Buildings and Alterations ...	74
Inspection and/or Testing of Drains ...	62
Inspection of Ice Cream Establishments ...	12
Examination of Unsound Food (Visits) and	
Inspection of Food Shops ..	19
Rats and Mice—Inspections and Treatment ...	28
Miscellaneous (removal of dead animal from beach)	1
Overcrowding Investigations ...	1
Petroleum Inspections ...	3

Housing.

The 20 houses mentioned in my last report are now being erected, and in addition one new private house was built, and two houses were converted to flats.

One house was declared unfit for occupation (Section 11 of the Housing Act) and has recently been repaired.

Water Supply.

New 4in. and 5in. mains have been laid on the Scaldwell Lane Housing Site, and a 3in. main to the West side of Burrow Road. The quality of the water was up to standard, and as in the year previous there was no occasion to curtail supply. The lime dosage has been slightly increased, and the amount of alumina kept to the minimum.

Food.

A large quantity of tinned food was condemned. Inspections are now being made as opportunity occurs with a view to enforcing the new Byelaws with regard to cleanliness in shops.

Refuse Collection.

This is carried out by two men with a 10 cubic yard vehicle, and the refuse is burnt in the Incinerator. The time has come when the Incinerator will have to be moved from its present site near the Council Houses to another site N.E. of the Town. During the year my Council resumed collection of waste paper.

Sewerage and Sewage Outfall.

The sewers continue to function, although it was found during Gas Board excavations that the brick barrel sewer in Fore Street was in a very poor condition. A short length of 6in. sewer in Harepath Road, near Eyewell Green end, was replaced by a 9in. sewer, and a temporary 6in. sewer, via Mooracre, was laid to drain the first 20 houses now being built for the Council. No complaints were received regarding the sewage discharge to the sea.

Public Health Nuisances.

Preliminary notices were served with regard to defective drains, or cesspools, absence of dustbins, and with regard to filth, and such notices were complied with.

Cemetery Ground.

During the year the search began for suitable ground for a future cemetery. It is estimated that the present burial ground will be filled within about 3 years.

Rats and Mice.

We are fortunate in not having any major infestations. There are rats on occasion in our sewers, and also in small numbers in private premises.

Your obedient servant,
 DUNCOMBE STEELE-PERKINS,
Medical Officer of Health.

